

# News Release



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## State Parks Announces Closures

### **Closure Plan Preserves Majority of System's Attendance and Revenue**

California State Parks today announced a plan to close up to 70 of its 278 parks (see attachment) due to budget cuts. The closures are necessary to achieve an \$11 million reduction in the next fiscal year 2011/12, and \$22 million in the following fiscal year 2012/13. These cuts were mandated by AB 95, which was passed by the Legislature and signed into law by Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. in March.

"We regret closing any park," said Ruth Coleman, director of California State Parks, "but with the proposed budget reductions over the next two years, we can no longer afford to operate all parks within the system."

"These cuts are unfortunate, but the state's current budget crisis demands that tough decisions be made," said Resources Secretary John Laird. "Hopefully, Republicans in the legislature will agree to allow California voters to decide whether we extend currently existing taxes or make deeper cuts to our parks."

State Parks had three primary goals for developing the closure methodology (see attachment): (1) protect the most significant natural and cultural resources, (2) maintain public access and revenue generation to the greatest extent possible and (3) protect closed parks so that they remain attractive and usable for potential partners. The methodology was included in the budget bill approved by the Legislature and the governor in March.

Despite the large number of parks identified for closure, at least 92% of today's attendance will be retained, 94% of existing revenues will be preserved, and 208 parks will remain open. State Parks believes the methodology developed preserves and protects parks critical to the mission, which provide for the diversity of experiences wanted by visitors across the state. For instance, State Parks has a variety of state historic parks, state beaches, state recreation

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areas, state nature reserves and state parks and most of the parks in all categories will remain open to serve the diverse preferences of park visitors.

“With this announcement, we can begin to seek additional partnership agreements to keep open as many parks as possible,” added Coleman. “We already have 32 operating agreements with our partners – cities, counties and non-profits – to operate state parks, and will be working statewide to expand that successful template.”

Attachments

- 1 – Park Closures of Meet 2012/13 General Fund Reduction
- 2 – Park Closure Methodology: Factors Considered

## **California State Parks Park Closures to Meet 2011/12-2012/13 General Fund Reductions**

Anderson Marsh SHP  
Annadel SP  
Antelope Valley Indian Museum  
Austin Creek SRA  
Bale Grist Mill SHP  
Benbow Lake SRA  
Benicia Capitol SHP  
Benicia SRA  
Bidwell Mansion SHP  
Bothe-Napa Valley SP  
Brannan Island SRA  
California Mining & Mineral Museum  
Candlestick Point SRA  
Castle Crags SP  
Castle Rock SP  
China Camp SP  
Colusa-Sacramento River SRA  
Del Norte Coast Redwoods SP  
Fort Humboldt SHP  
Fort Tejon SHP  
Garrapata SP  
George J. Hatfield SRA  
Governor's Mansion SHP  
Gray Whale Cove SB  
Greenwood SB  
Grizzly Creek Redwoods SP  
Hendy Woods SP  
Henry W. Coe SP  
Jack London SHP  
Jug Handle SNR  
Leland Stanford Mansion SHP  
Limekiln SP  
Los Encinos SHP  
Malakoff Diggins SHP  
Manchester SP

McConnell SRA  
McGrath SB  
Mono Lake Tufa SNR  
Morro Strand SB  
Moss Landing SB  
Olompali SHP  
Palomar Mountain SP  
Petaluma Adobe SHP  
Picacho SRA  
Pio Pico SHP  
Plumas-Eureka SP  
Point Cabrillo Light Station  
Portola Redwoods SP  
Providence Mountains SRA  
Railtown 1897 SHP  
Russian Gulch SP  
Saddleback Butte SP  
Salton Sea SRA  
Samuel P. Taylor SP  
San Pasqual Battlefield SHP  
Santa Cruz Mission SHP  
Santa Susana Pass SHP  
Shasta SHP  
South Yuba River SP  
Standish-Hickey SRA  
Sugarloaf Ridge SP  
Tomales Bay SP  
Tule Elk SNR  
Turlock Lake SRA  
Twin Lakes SB  
Weaverville Joss House SHP  
Westport-Union Landing SB  
William B. Ide Adobe SHP  
Woodson Bridge SRA  
Zmudowski SB

**Total Park Closures: 70**

California State Parks

## **Park Closure Methodology: Factors Considered**

Statewide Significance: The statewide significance of the parks based on the department's established lists of *Outstanding and Representative Parks* as well as the *California State History Plan* and the *California State Parks Survey of 1928* (authored by Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr.).

Visitation: In order to protect public access.

Fiscal Strength: Estimated net savings from closure for each unit.

Ability to Physically Close: Some units are easily closed to public access while others cannot be physically closed.

Existing Partnerships: Units with substantial concession operations and/or non-profit support.

Infrastructure: Some units suffer from unstable infrastructure (primarily water and wastewater treatment facilities). Recent or proposed Capital Outlay investments were also considered.

Land Use Restrictions: Known deed restrictions and grant requirements. Parks will continue to work with the National Park Service to protect access to our Land and Water Conservation Fund parks.

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